

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~stimulating the growth of lung~~regenerating alveolar surface area in a lung, comprising:

~~providing alveolar epithelial progenitor cells capable of regenerating lung alveolar surface; and~~

administering said alveolar epithelial ~~progenitor~~ type 2 (AEC2) cells to said lung in an amount sufficient to ~~stimulate the growth of lung~~regenerate alveolar surface area therein, wherein said alveolar epithelial ~~progenitor~~type 2 cells are from the same species as said lung.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said lung is *ex vivo*, and wherein said administering step is followed by the step of:

transplanting said lung into a recipient in need thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said lung is a mammalian lung.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said lung is a human lung.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said alveolar epithelial ~~progenitor~~type 2 cells are autologous cells.

8. (Canceled).

9-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) An *ex vivo* method of ~~stimulating the growth of~~  
~~lung~~regenerating alveolar surface area in a lung, comprising:

~~providing alveolar epithelial progenitor cells capable of regenerating lung alveolar~~  
~~surface; and~~

administering ~~said~~ alveolar epithelial ~~progenitor~~Type 2 cells to said lung *ex vivo* in an  
amount sufficient to ~~stimulate the growth of lung~~regenerate alveolar surface area therein.